

The Gant County Fiscal Court met in Regular Session on Monday, May 21, 2007, at 7:00 P.M. at the Grant County Courthouse in Williamstown, Kentucky 41097, with Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, Present; Brian Linder, Magistrate 2nd District, Present; Bobby Young, Magistrate 3rd District, Present, and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, Present and Presiding.

* * * * *

Magistrate Linder opened in prayer. Judge Link then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present were: Clark Kinman-Cable TV, Charlie Phillips, James Perkins and Cliff Lahner. Judge Link then updated on the Additions/Deletions to the Agenda.

* * * * *

Motion of Brian Linder and seconded by Bobby Young it is hereby ordered to approve the minutes of the May 07, 2007, meeting as presented.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Brian Linder, Magistrate 2nd District, votes Yes; Bobby Young, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

* * * * *

Judge Link presented for review and approval the Claims in the General Expense Fund, Road Fund, Jail Fund and L.G.E.A. Fund, for the month of May, 2007, along with the transfers needed to pay said claims. He then asked if there were any questions. He did explain that the \$50,000.00 grant for fire department equipment from the Governor's Office of Local Government had been received and the funds were being distributed equally among the five fire departments and they will receive \$10,000.00 equally. The Fire Departments had already provided a list of their needs and how they will use those funds which was attached to the application for funding and a copy of that application is in his office if anyone wanted to see it. He said that we are pleased to be able to help the fire departments purchase equipment in order to better protect our citizens. These are the

funds that Senator Thayer had the 2006 or 2007 General Assembly to include in their budget. He also explained that the Russell Flynn Road Blacktopping Project has been completed and that this was the last road to be completed in the paving contract from last fall. It was also stated that the bridge on Heathen Ridge Road is being worked on.

Motion of Richard Austin and seconded by Brian Linder it is hereby ordered to approve Claims No. 01-1359 thru 01-1413 in the amount of \$203,704.41 paid out of the General Expense Fund; Claims No. 02-383 thru 02-395 in the amount of \$44,592.56 paid out of the Road Fund; Claims No. 03-481 thru 03-500 in the amount of \$13,085.10 paid out of the Jail Fund; and Claim No. 04-0000018 and 04-0000019 in the amount of \$6,114.78 paid out of the L.G.E.A. Fund, for the month of May 2007, along with the transfers presented to pay said claims.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Brian Linder, Magistrate 2nd District, votes Yes; Bobby Young, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell L. Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

* * * * *

Judge Link presented for a second reading Ordinance No. 04-2007-604 relating to the Establishment of a 25 MPH Speed Limit on Bennett Road, along with the Notice to run in the local paper showing adoption, if approved. They are as follows:

Motion of Richard Austin and seconded by Bobby Young it is hereby ordered to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 04-2007-604 relating to the Establishment of a 25 MPH Speed Limit on Bennett Road, along with the Notice to run in the local paper showing adoption as presented.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Brian Linder, Magistrate 2nd District, votes Yes; Bobby Young, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

* * * * *

Judge Link presented for review and action the Recommendation of the Grant County Planning Commission for a Zone Change from Agricultural One (A-1) to Rural Residential (RR) on 7.2868 acres of land located on the West side of Kentucky Route #36 and on the North side of Smoky Road, Grant County, Kentucky, owned by applicant Bob Aulbach. It is as follows: He also presented for a first reading Ordinance No. 05-2007-605 relating to an Amendment to the Grant County Zoning Map for said applicant, along with the Notice to run in the local paper showing second reading to be on June 04, 2007, at 7:00 P.M. or as soon thereafter as possible, if approved. They are as follows:

Magistrate Austin asked about the number of lots and their location and said it looked like everything would be accessed off of Smokey Road and there is no driveway or easement. Judge Link stated that it looked like the 7.1533 acre Tract, the 3.2439 acre Tract and the 1.9519acre Tract was located on Smoky Road and the 2.7627 acre Tract 4 he was not sure about; it looked like it was on Ky. Route #36. The barn is on Tract 4 and he can't visualize whether it currently has a pull off or not, but the house is currently coming off of Smokey Road. Magistrate Austin said that he knew the house did and he thought the barn did too. Magistrate Linder said there has been some discussion in the community about the Planning and Zoning not allowing this to happen unless it was for stick built homes only, but he said if he reads the minutes correctly, the Commission said they could not make the applicant agree to that, but he agreed to that, and asked if that was correct. Judge Link said it does appear that the person making the application had agreed to allow for stick built homes only. Again he said he could only assume that there was someone there who was concerned about how these lots would be developed as well as it appears that they were concerned about how the sanitation would be treated, and so

they also put on there as a condition that lagoons would not be allowed. It doesn't appear that the applicant has agreed to those. He said that he asked Ed Lorenz before he received the information how those things would be enforced. Ed Lorenz said that it says on page 2 of the Recommendation Smokey Road land division be restricted as presented and the exceptions will be recorded with each lot. As far as he is concerned as long as these things are of record where anybody coming in for any kind of permits would be advised of it and sees it of record, and he read that same thing that Mr. Aulbach agreed to, those six conditions, he is okay with it. He didn't particularly address the access from Highway 36, but in looking at all the plats, there does not appear to be any. If there is an agricultural access to that barn, he thinks it will stay, but he doesn't think any residential access will be permitted. Magistrate Austin said the road was pretty good through there and he doesn't see a problem with them getting access off of it, but that is the state's problem. Judge Link said they would have to get that permit from the State. Magistrate Austin said that he is for doing away with the lagoons but he thought the Health Department had to agree to it. Ed Lorenz said you can do that in any form of government as part of the restrictions if they agree to it unless there are certain conditions down there that makes lagoons not feasible; it doesn't have to be the Health Department. Magistrate Austin stated that he does not want any more lagoons in the county.

Motion of Richard Austin and seconded by Bobby Young it is hereby ordered to accept the Recommendation of the Grant County Planning Commission for a Zone Change for applicant Bob Aulbach as presented, and to further approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 05-2007-605 relating to an Amendment to the Grant County Zoning Map for said applicant, along with the Notice to run in the local paper as presented.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Brian Linder, Magistrate 2nd District, votes Yes; Bobby Young, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

* * * * *

Judge Link presented for review and approval the County Road Aid Cooperative Contract for 2007-2008 Fiscal Year between the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Transportation Cabinet, Department of Intergovernmental Programs and Grant County Fiscal Court. It is as follows: Judge Link said that these funds come from the gasoline tax and are passed on to the counties for road maintenance. He said that the amount shown in the contract is only 60% of the total that will be received, and he estimates we will receive around \$630,000.00 total and that is what the revenue shows in the proposed budget.

Motion of Brian Linder and seconded by Bobby Young it is hereby ordered to approve the County Road Aid Cooperative Contract for 2007-2008 Fiscal Year between the Commonwealth of Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Department of Intergovernmental Programs and Grant County Fiscal Court as presented, and to further authorize the Judge/Executive to sign same on behalf of Fiscal Court.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Brian Linder, Magistrate 2nd District, votes Yes; Bobby Young, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

* * * * *

Judge Link presented for Sheriff Chuck Dills 48 pages of the Sheriff's Report of Tax Claims purchased for Taxing Districts (Certificate of Delinquency) for the 2006 Taxes on Real Estate, which sale of tax Claims was held at the Courthouse door on the 21st day of April, 2007, at 10:00 AM for which no purchaser appeared at the sale and which was purchased by the Sheriff for the Taxing Districts. List is as follows: Discussion was held on the company from New York who had been interested in purchasing tax bills and

whether they had done so. Magistrate Austin said that they did not, but Attorney Ed Lorenz reported that they all got bought a few days later. He said it is going to get pretty nasty now. People paying \$400.00 to \$500.00 on a tax bill will be paying up to \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00 for attorney fees making them go up to \$2,500.00 to \$3,000.00. He said it is pretty sad. Judge Link agreed, and said he did not know if he was proficient enough to explain to taxpayers what really takes place here. It puts everyone in a precarious position. He said last year he had a couple to come in and fuss at him because they came up here to pay their taxes and no one could collect what they wanted to pay even though they had sufficient amount of money to pay them. This was after the taxes were delinquent and after they were purchased by a firm out of state. The people at that point are pretty much at the mercy of the people who bought them, and they have to negotiate with them a price to pay. Most of the time it is going to be somewhat higher than what they could have paid earlier. Mr. Lorenz said that with the additional penalties and interest, of course, they would be higher. Now with a private individual they are allowed to collect their attorney fees even if they don't sue, they are collecting thousands of dollars in attorney fees. If they challenge them they might have some success, but if they don't challenge them, they are going to end up paying exorbitant prices. Judge Link said that some people are a great believer that the County Judge can waive a wand and allow them to pay what was due, but they actually had to pay what was higher and negotiate with a company out of state. This is an issue that was brought by legislation that was passed in Frankfort. It wasn't anything that this Fiscal Court passed or any previous Fiscal Courts. The KRS was created by the General Assembly and allows for the sale of delinquent tax bills. So someone shows up, has the money, purchases all of it

and charges administrative fees or attorney fees. The law says they can do that, and this is outside of our jurisdiction and local control. He wishes he could tell more and explain more so everybody understands. It does put people who don't pay their taxes timely in a very difficult position. Magistrate Austin asked if we knew the name of the company who purchased the bills. Ed Lorenz said that that we do not know. Once they go to the Clerk's office, they can pick and choose. He does not think they would have bought all of them. Further discussion was held. Ed Lorenz said that he hopes the General Assembly corrects this problem. Judge Link joins him and hopes that also. He said he has talked to our Representative and Senator and made it known to them, and he knows the person who fussed at him last year took the issue to Congressman Davis, and obviously that was the wrong place to take the issue as well, but we need everyone's help in making sure that Representative Adams and Senator Thayer understands the consequence of the action taken by the General Assembly. We have companies coming from out of state and purchasing these tax bills and they can sit on them for a while. The Court having examined said List of Certificate of Delinquency for tax year 2006, the following Motion was made:

Motion of Richard Austin and seconded by Brian Linder it is hereby ordered to accept the Sheriff's List of Certificate of Delinquency on Real Estate taxes for the year 2006 as presented, and that the Sheriff be allowed proper credit for same, and the state, county and other Taxing Districts shall retain a lien on same. Said List containing 25 pages on Revenue Form 62A359-A(9-02), 14 Pages on Revenue Form 62A372-A(2-06), and 9 pages on Revenue Form 62A362-A(4-01), and same to be made a part of the minutes of this Court. It is also directed that the County Attorney take legal action for collection of

the Certificate of Delinquency.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Brian Linder, Magistrate 2nd District, votes Yes; Bobby Young, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

* * * * *

Judge Link stated that we needed to Void Check No. 8455 in the General Expense Fund to Kentucky Uniforms Inc. in the amount of \$9,923.89 dated 05-08-07 due to incorrect amount being paid and check should have been made to separate Vendors and not one Vendor.

Motion of Richard Austin and seconded by Brian Linder it is hereby ordered to void Check No. 8455 in the General Expense Fund to Kentucky Uniforms, Inc. in the amount of \$9,923.89 dated 05-08-07 as requested.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Brian Linder, Magistrate 2nd District, votes Yes; Bobby Young, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

* * * * *

Judge Link presented the Coroner's Report for January thru April, 2007. It is as follows:
No action is required.

* * * * *

Judge Link presented for review and action the Resignation of Paula Burton-Jones as a member of the Grant County Public Library Board. It is as follows: Judge Link said that Paula was an excellent Board member and he appreciated her service. He agrees with her that the Library Board has come a long way in the past few years and he credited her with having been a part of this progress. The Court certainly realizes that we all at some time will have to take care of our elderly parents as Paula is doing and said it shows her compassion and kindness and we wish her well in that endeavor.

Motion of Richard Austin and seconded by Brian Linder it is hereby ordered to accept with regrets the Resignation of Paula Burton-Jones as a member of the Grant County Public Library Board as presented.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Brian Linder, Magistrate 2nd District, votes Yes; Bobby Young, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

* * * * *

Judge Link presented for review and action the Appointments of Lea Huckaby Schmitt to fill the unexpired term of Paula Burton-Jones as a member of the Grant County Public Library Board and to re-appoint Lynn Bates for another 4 year term as a member of the Grant County Public Library Board. It is as follows: Magistrate Linder asked how these appointees are picked. Judge Link updated on this. He said that Barbara Caron, the Librarian, put a notice in the paper regarding the Criteria for being a board member and they fill out an application if interested. They are considered by the Library Board and if qualified, those names are then sent to the State Librarian for their consideration. They then forward a letter with two names for consideration to the County Judge for his consideration. He said that reading between the lines, the name that they usually submit on the left of the list is the person that they would like to have appointed. He tries to follow that most of the time, but on one occasion over the last few years at one point there was a little bit of a hoo-hah working over there. It appeared that things were a little bit unbalanced and maybe some people might have had a specific or personal interest, and he did not feel it was for the betterment of the county that that go forward, and at that point he ignored that protocol and went to the second name. It caused a little bit of a stir once again but it was his prerogative to do so as always to try to protect the best interest of the people of this county, so that is the process. Magistrate Linder said that he did not

know who Lea Huckaby Schmitt was, but he would assume that the Library Board probably screens quite well. Attorney Ed Lorenz stated that he was at the last meeting of the Library Board on another issue at which time they considered the applications. He said that they actually have several considerations that they do. It is not the overriding factor, they do pay attention to the demographics. They want representation from the county. They actually went thru the application process where they had a three or four page questionnaire that each applicant filled out. The general consensus was that they were impressed with all of them. There were four of them. On top of that they have a couple more resignations coming up, so they basically said we are going to try to get these two now and you all don't leave because in a couple of months we are going to have some more openings and those are going to be back. Judge Link informed Magistrate Linder that Lea Huckaby Schmitt is the wife of David Schmitt who is Chairman of the 109 Board, and said that David has chaired that Board very well. He is an attorney and is an Environmental Attorney, and he provides a wonderful service to this community in that capacity. He, his wife and children live on Heathen Ridge Road. He said that the only thing that he knows personally about Lea is that he believes she is retired from the Military, so he knows she has served our country in that capacity, and the conversation he had with her she sounds like a wonderful individual which he is sure that she is.

Motion of Bobby Young and seconded by Brian Linder it is hereby ordered to approve the appointment of Lea Huckaby Schmitt to fill the unexpired term of Paula Burton-Jones as a member of the Grant County Public Library Board, said term to expire on June 30, 2008, and to re-appoint Lynn Bates to serve another four year term as a member of the

Grant County Public Library Board beginning July 01, 2007, and to expire on June 30, 2011, as presented.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Brian Linder, Magistrate 2nd District, votes Yes; Bobby Young, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

* * * * *

Judge Link requested a Motion to declare as surplus to the needs of the county a 1988 Dodge Pickup (Serial No. 1B7JW24Y0JS687260) located at the Grant County Road Department and to further authorize the Judge/Executive to dispose of same as he sees fit. Judge Link said that the floor board in this vehicle is somewhat removed and you can see daylight as you drive down the road and it is not safe. He said that Sheriff Dills has not had his auction yet and this vehicle could be included in that auction.

Motion of Brian Linder and seconded by Richard Austin it is hereby ordered to declare as surplus to the needs of the county a 1988 Dodge Pickup (Serial No. 1B7J24YOJS687260) located at the Grant County Road Department and to further authorize the Judge/Executive to dispose of same as he sees fit according to law.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Brian Linder, Magistrate 2nd District, votes Yes; Bobby Young, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

* * * * *

Judge Link presented the County Treasurer's Monthly Cash Position Report for April, 2007. It is as follows. No action is required. He also told them that they had in their packet a copy of the April 10th Minutes of the Grant County Industrial Development Authority to take home and read. He said there also was some other information in their packet to take home and review which he had received from the Grant County Sanitary Sewer District regarding some provisions regarding future expansion of their system

that they want to have adopted. He said that he has reviewed this information himself and it is satisfactory with him and Ed Lorenz, but the Court will have to have some dialogue and discussion on this information at a future date and then put it on the Agenda for review and approval.

* * * * *

Judge Link announced that Open discussion for the “Good of the County” would be at this time and said that anyone who wanted to address the Court could do so. Cliff Lahner asked how a resident of the county learns about or gets involved in the budget process, when can they make a contribution or do you honor contributions from citizens. Judge Link said he did not understand the question. Mr. Lahner again asked how a citizen of the county gets involved in the budgetary process. Judge Link said that anyone can get involved in the budgeting process if getting involved means understanding how the budget was arrived at, some of the dialogue into the decisions. Mr. Lahner asked if a citizen could offer comments and suggestions. Judge Link said a citizen may always offer comments. Mr. Lahner asked how they do that. Judge Link said they may do that in writing. They may do that by attending a meeting such as this one and making comments or asking questions. They may do that by approaching their Magistrate. They may do that by coming into his office and having a discussion. Mr. Lahner asked where the process is now with the budget. Judge Link said currently we have had the first reading which means we have submitted a balanced budget and that budget has been brought to the Court and they have had first reading on that budget. We have sent that budget to Frankfort which we are required to do. The Governors Office of Local Development goes over that budget to make sure that it is within our means. They make

sure we have coded everything appropriately, that many of the line items we have in there correspond to other common keys or other minutes or other actions that may have taken place over the last year from other departments. All that has to be coordinated which is one of the things that Miss Evalene and he provides to the budget. They have done their work and are ready to approve our budget; however, he said we hope to have that budget on our June 04th Agenda for a second reading. We have to absolutely have the second reading prior to June 30th. It has to be completed by June 30th. One of the things we are still waiting on that is a little unclear to us is the Sheriff's budget. As you know Chuck Dills is having some dialogue with the City of Dry Ridge and the City of Crittenden, and the consequences and the implications of that dialogue would change the bottom line to our budget significantly and so without knowing yet what the Sheriff is going to be bringing to us, it is a little premature for us to get into that dialogue discussion debate because again it has a huge impact to our budget. For instance, he gave this example. One of the things that we are struggling with and it is not only we here in Grant County, but it is every county in the state as well as every municipality and state government, is the whole issue surrounding retirement. We have some mandates that we absolutely have to make. You have no discretionary decision to be made regarding retirement for employees. Our Sheriff is in the Hazardous Duty Retirement Program. That has a huge financial implication to our budget and this is the example he used. Let us say just for illustration purposes that his salary treatment for all of his personnel, deputies, those peace officers that carry a gun and drives a car with blue lights. Let's say that budget treatment is one million dollars. Our contribution to the hazardous duty retirement in 1998 was 16%, so that would require us to set aside \$160,000.00 for the retirement on

those deputies given that salary treatment overall was a million dollars. Hazardous duty retirement today is 33%, so the impact of a million dollars budget if everything had stayed the same for eight years which we know it hasn't, everybody gets a raise, salaries continue to go up, but even if it was a million dollars in the same illustration, today our contribution to retirement would be \$330,000.00 because of the 33%. We are being told by the Actuaries, the people who determine the amounts that needs to be put into the retirement programs, that we can expect it is going to be 60% by 2012. He said that we, this Fiscal Court, these three Magistrates and he, have an obligation to this county that when they look at a budget and when they adopt a budget that they understand the implications of that budget, not only for this fiscal year that we are adopting for, but also for the future implications that a precedent might set such as in 2012, and so they have to take all of those things into account and they also try to predetermine the revenue or cash on hand that they would have in such a year. He said that so many of the things, and he will let any of the three Magistrates speak in a moment, many of the issues within our budget, as these guys have just learned, are nondiscretionary. They are mandated by the State. We have no choice but to make those payments. For instance we have to pay approximately \$48,000.00 to the Property Valuation Administrator's Office, the Assessor downstairs who goes out and assesses property. That is a contribution by statute that makes us provide for her office. We are also mandated to pick up the cost for elections which we are going to have tomorrow, and we encourage everybody to get out and vote. The unfortunate thing is not everybody votes. We will have a very low turnout but it still costs us the same amount. The City of Dry Ridge a couple of years ago had a special election to determine whether or not they wanted to have some spirits in Dry Ridge.

They voted it down. Nevertheless it cost us the county an amount to pay for that election. More than likely we will have to pay for an extra election this year providing that our candidates tomorrow don't achieve more than 40% and we will have another election in June that is unanticipated for us as well as another election in November. All those things come down to county government, and then there are other issues that we have in there as well that are absolutely mandated by the State, so when it comes to these Magistrates prioritizing and identifying those things that are important we try to look at the budget and look at it and say which of these things are reoccurring. Is it going to take place every year. What is the amount it normally increases and will we be able to meet that obligation and what things is it that we can make an investment in and will get a good return on, be accountable to our citizens, but yet it might be a stand alone project like building a park. It is a one time event and will only happen this year and not happen the next. Can we incur that expense this year and come back to some degree of normalcy next year but not have a long term financial implication. Those things are much fewer. He wishes he could tell you that we have an opportunity to build more and do more, but that diminishes every day, and just like our families at home have difficulty, and again he is speaking for his family, they have difficulty in putting together a family budget because he doesn't know what he is going to pay for gas next week. You can imagine if you are a normal family that has 2 vehicles and some who have children have 4, what their gas bill might be, but consider the fact that we the county have 60 or 70 vehicles. We have Road Department; we have Sheriff's Department, and the prices of gas which is absolutely unstable and drives the price on everything else that goes up, but yet we have normally only an increase in our revenue of approximately \$50,000.00 a year. The

expenses outpace that. We don't want to take any action today that would require us two years from now to have to look at Mr. Lahner or any other citizen in our county and say "You know what? Because of the decision we made in '06 when we could have been just a little bit more responsible with your money, I hate to apologize to you that I wasn't and now I have to ask you for more". So it is those things that we try to take into account, and while we are trying to speak and to educate everyone, our revenue doesn't actually start coming in until October or November as we collect taxes, but we have to provide services July 01st so there has to be sufficient cash flow set aside from the previous year that allows us to use that money to continue to provide services so we don't miss a beat. That means you can't go to the deep into that reserve to meet the obligations of tomorrow unlike State government who bonds, unlike the Federal government who runs a deficit. We here at the local government can not run a deficit. Whatever monies that we have coming in we have to balance and we have to show it as it was distributed out and it has to balance. There is no spin in everything he has said and there is no mystery. There isn't anything hidden. It is honest and it is balanced, and he is happy to report that we have a good strong financial position, and even compared to other counties who have exhausted all of their revenue streams, we have not done so. Other counties have exhausted all of their revenue streams where they have a property tax; they have an occupational tax and they have an insurance tax. We have a property tax. We try to live within our means and he thinks it is appreciated by the folks in this county. We recognize that 60% of our people go outside of the county to work. We recognize that our families at home, whether they be the elderly or the young families getting started, have difficult times in meeting the financial obligations to provide for their families given

the unstable economy and the demands that are placed upon them. So going forward if we have an issue that we think we can bring to the citizens and identify something that could be accomplished as a result of implementing one of those, he guesses it can be considered if we really worked ourselves into a corner. He guesses we have an out. He has no idea how those other County Judges, he guesses they are either more gray headed or have less money..... (At this time we had to stop so the Cameraman could change tapes). Judge Link said we are back and Mr. Lahner questioned is it too late for a citizen to get involved in the budget process and the answer is No, it is not too late. He fully anticipates that these Magistrates will have to amend the budget. We have met our first obligation and that is to present a balanced budget that was financially responsible and he applauds them for that. They were not easy decisions. They were difficult decisions, but he does not think they made any decision that is going to preclude our citizens to continue to be served very well. Having said that there is some currently in our budget, before we consider the Sheriff's budget and before we make the necessary amendments that are going to have to be made, there is sufficient room within our budget that will allow us to consider some specific cuts that may have been made. For instance, if a department was cut a program, they can still come and speak to the Magistrates. They can still make their case for that Program and that Program can still be considered and may very well be restored; that may very well happen. He is hedging on this because we still don't know what the Sheriff's budget is going to look like and it has a huge financial implication to our overall budget that we have to take into consideration. Without that data being known it puts us in a very difficult position and a few departments are currently uncomfortable. He wishes that wasn't the case but it is. Mr. Lahner said that

was certainly a comprehensive explanation and said from what he had heard it sounds like he should get with his Magistrate for anything he has to offer and let him bring it back to them, and said that he will do that. Judge Link said that certainly is one way. He said the Magistrates are elected by Magisterial District and everybody is well served by that process, but he said that any of our Magistrates will be glad to talk to any citizen of the county regardless of the geographic area your are from, and he said he is approached every day by people throughout the county and he is not suggesting that everybody circumvent their Magistrates, but he is more than willing to spend whatever time is necessary with you as well. Mr. Lahner thanked him and Judge Link replied “You’re Welcome”. Judge Link asked the Magistrates if they had anything to add and they said he pretty much covered it. Magistrate Young did say that they all three looked at the budget and they all three made some cuts without discussing with each other. They were almost identical in some cases. He thinks they all have their plan and know where they need to cut and where they need to stay solid, but even without talking to Dickie or Brian, he gave his cuts to Judge Link and he thinks that they all four are in agreement, that is the decision they had to make and he said there is nothing that can’t be changed down the road, there can be. Judge Link said the Magistrates were very like minded in the decisions they made and the areas where they thought we needed to make the necessary adjustments that will allow us to go forward. They were like minded and arrived at those decisions independently of one another and independently of his coaching as well and that says a lot that the process worked that way and that they pretty much came to the same conclusion. But he said we are not finished. We still have some work that needs to be accomplished and are going to have some discussion, dialogue and debate. He said

his grandmother always said and gave him some advice. She said “Tomorrow the Sun comes up again and we can always start over”, and he said they will probably have a few more discussions about this before the Sun sets. Judge Link asked if anyone had anything else. Magistrate Bobby Young said he wanted to give the Sheriff’s Office a couple of pats on the back for a job well done out at the Grant County High School on the issues they were facing last week over there. He has heard nothing but positive things from the citizens of Grant County on how the Sheriff’s Department reacted in that situation, so “Thanks” goes out to them. He said a lot of their Department did show up and for what they did out there at the High School those days he just wanted to give them a pat on the back. Judge Link also said “Good Job by the Sheriff’s Department. Good Job by the Administrators at the School, the Staff, the Teachers and everyone involved”. He said there was a lot of misinformation, a lot of misrepresentation, a lot of things were being said, and everybody agreed that our children were important enough to take the time and set aside our normal Agendas and try to discover the truth. We are trying to assure that our kids are safe today and are safe tomorrow. Magistrate Austin commented that he didn’t think any of the Departments were going to suffer from any decisions they made. He certainly didn’t intend them to be, but they looked at the budget overall and felt that if there is something that needs to be brought back, he certainly would encourage anybody to come and ask them again because the door is always open and they have some money in a line item for transfers and if the situation comes up where it will effect somebody in a negative way, he would be in favor of making that program happen. He also encouraged all to have a good weekend with Memorial Day weekend coming up and asked if there was going to be a service here on Monday. Judge Link said he is sure there

will be. They have never missed a service here at the Courthouse for Memorial Day and he is usually informed as he unlocks the door that he needs to make some remarks. He said that Congressman Davis' office called and asked and he is sure there will be but he didn't know the specifics on it. He is confident there will be a service here on Monday, and he too joins the Magistrates in wishing everyone a safe and happy Memorial Day weekend.

* * * * *

Judge Link reminded the Fiscal Court that the next Caucus meeting will be at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, May 29, 2007, due to the Memorial Day Holiday, and that the next meeting of the Fiscal Court will be on Monday, June 04, 2007, at 7:00 P.M.

* * * * *

Motion of Brian Linder and seconded by Bobby Young it is hereby ordered to Adjourn until Monday, June 04, 2007, at 7:00 P.M.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Brian Linder, Magistrate 2nd District, votes Yes; Bobby Young, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

* * * * *

GRANT COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE